

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows.

1. (Currently Amended) A method of controlling access to resources, said method comprising:
 - receiving, by a server, a first request for a resource, said first request comprising a first requestor identifying information, wherein said first requestor identifying information identifies a first requestor;
 - referring, by said server, said first request to a remote source, wherein said remote source evaluates said first request in response to said referring to generate a first policy decision, wherein said first policy decision is based on a policy definition governing access to said resource and based on said first requestor identifying information;
 - receiving, by said server, said first policy decision from said remote source, wherein said first policy decision is for said first requestor;
 - storing [[a]] said first policy decision for [[a]] said resource in local memory, wherein said local memory further comprises a second policy decision, wherein said second policy decision is based on a second requestor identifying information, and wherein said second policy decision is for a second requestor identified by said second requestor identifying information;~~said policy decision received from a remote source of policy definitions, said policy decision based on a policy definition governing access to said resource and on requestor identifying information provided to said remote source;~~
 - receiving a second ~~an initial~~ request for access to said resource, said ~~initial~~ said second request comprising said first requestor identifying information;
 - evaluating said ~~initial~~ said second request using said first policy decision in said local memory;
 - receiving a notification from said remote source of a change in said policy definition, said notification identifying said first policy decision ~~resource~~;
 - invalidating said first policy decision based on said notification;

receiving a ~~subsequent~~ third request for access to said resource, said ~~subsequent~~ third request comprising said second requestor identifying information, wherein said second requestor identifying information identifies said second requestor;
evaluating said third request using said second policy decision in said local memory,
wherein said first policy decision is invalidated and said second policy decision is valid in local memory when said third request is evaluated;
receiving, by said server, a fourth request for said resource after said third request is received, said fourth request comprising said first requestor identifying information,
wherein said fourth requestor identifying information identifies said first requestor;
identifying, by said server in response to said fourth request, said first policy decision as invalid;
referring, by said server, said fourth request to said remote source when the first policy decision is identified as invalid, wherein said remote source evaluates said fourth request in response to said referring to generate a third policy decision;
receiving, by said server, said third policy decision from said remote source; and
evaluating said ~~fourth request~~ ~~subsequent request~~ based on said third policy decision
~~notification.~~

2. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1 wherein said resource is affiliated with another resource, and wherein further a policy decision for said other resource is received from said remote source and stored in said local memory.
3. (Cancelled)
4. (Cancelled)
5. (Cancelled)
6. (Cancelled)
7. (Cancelled)

8. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1 wherein a period of time said policy decision is valid is also received from said remote source and stored locally.
9. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1 wherein a condition associated with said policy definition is also received from said remote source and stored locally, wherein said condition is enforced locally.
10. (Currently Amended) A method of controlling access to resources, said method comprising:
 - receiving, by a server, a first ~~an initial~~ request for access to a first resource, said ~~initial~~ first request comprising a first requestor identifying information, wherein said first requestor identifying information identifies a first requestor ~~initial request is referred to a remote source of a policy definition that governs access to said resource for evaluation;~~
 - referring, by said server, said first request to a remote source, wherein said remote source evaluates said first request in response to said referring to generate a first policy decision, wherein said first policy decision is based on a policy definition governing access to said first resource and based on said first requestor identify information;
 - receiving, by said server, from said remote source [[a]] said first policy decision for said first resource, wherein said first policy decision is for said first requestor, said policy decision based on said policy definition and said requestor identifying information;
 - storing said first policy decision in local memory, wherein said local memory further comprises a second policy decision, wherein said second policy decision is based on a second requestor identifying information, and wherein said second policy decision is for a second requestor, wherein a subsequent request for access to said resource is evaluated locally using said policy decision stored in said local memory; and
 - receiving a second request for access to said resource, said second request comprising said first requestor identifying information;
 - evaluating said second request using said first policy decision in said local memory;

receiving a notification from said remote source of a change in said policy definition, said notification identifying said first resource, ~~wherein a request for access to said resource received after said notification is evaluated based on said notification; and~~ invalidating said first policy decision based on said notification and said first policy decision associated with said first resource;

receiving a third request for access to said resource, said third request comprising said second requestor identifying information, wherein said second requestor identifying information identifies said second requestor;

evaluating said third request using said second policy decision in said local memory, wherein said first policy decision is invalidated and said second policy decision is valid in local memory when said third request is evaluated;

receiving, by said server, a fourth request for said resource after said third request is received, said fourth request comprising said first requestor identifying information, wherein said fourth requestor identifying information identifies said first requestor;

identifying, by said server in response to said fourth request, said first policy decision as invalid;

referring, by said server, said fourth request to said remote source when the first policy decision is identified as invalid, wherein said remote source evaluates said fourth request in response to said referring to generate a third policy decision;

receiving, by said server, said third policy decision from said remote source; and

evaluating said fourth request based on said third policy decision.

11. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 10 wherein said first resource is affiliated with another resource, wherein a policy decision for said other resource is received from said remote source and stored in said local memory.
12. (Cancelled)
13. (Cancelled)
14. (Cancelled)

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Cancelled)

17. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 10 further comprising:

receiving information that identifies a period of time said first policy decision is valid.

18. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 10 further comprising:

receiving from said remote source a condition associated with said policy definition, wherein said condition is enforced locally.

19. (Currently Amended) A computer-usable medium having computer-readable program code embodied therein for causing a computer system to perform a method of controlling access to resources, said method comprising:

receiving, by a server, a first request for a first resource, said first request comprising a first requestor identifying information, wherein said first requestor identifying information identifies a first requestor;

referring, by said server, said first request to a remote source, wherein said remote source evaluates said first request in response to said referring to generate a first policy decision, wherein said first policy decision is based on a policy definition governing access to said first resource and based on said first requestor identify information;

receiving, by said server, said first policy decision from said remote source, wherein said first policy decision is for said first requestor;

storing in local memory ~~[[a]]~~ said first policy decision for ~~[[a]]~~ said first resource, wherein said local memory further comprises a second policy decision, wherein said second policy decision is based on a second requestor identifying information, and wherein said second policy decision is for a second requestor, ~~said policy decision received from a remote source of policy definitions, said policy decision based on a policy definition governing access to said first resource and on requestor identifying information provided to said source;~~

receiving ~~an initial~~ a second request for access to said first resource, ~~said initial~~ said second request comprising said first requestor identifying information;
evaluating said ~~initial~~ second request using said first policy decision stored in said local memory;
receiving a notification from said remote source of a change in said policy definition, said notification identifying said first policy decision ~~first resource~~;
invalidating said first policy decision based on said notification;
receiving a ~~subsequent~~ third request for access to said first resource, said third request comprising said second requestor identifying information, wherein said second requestor identifying information identifies said second requestor;
evaluating said third request using said second policy decision in said local memory, wherein said first policy decision is invalidated and said second policy decision is valid in local memory when said third request is evaluated;
receiving, by said server, a fourth request for said resource after said third request is received, said fourth request comprising said first requestor identifying information, wherein said fourth requestor identifying information identifies said first requestor;
identifying, by said server in response to said fourth request, said first policy decision as invalid;
referring, by said server, said fourth request to said remote source when said first policy decision is identified as invalid, wherein said remote source evaluates said fourth request in response to said referring to generate a third policy decision;
receiving, by said server, said third policy decision from said remote source; and
evaluating said ~~subsequent~~ fourth request based on said third policy decision ~~notification~~.

20. (Previously Presented) The computer-usable medium of Claim 19 wherein said first resource is affiliated with another resource, wherein a policy decision for said other resource is received from said remote source and stored in said local memory.

21. (Cancelled)

22. (Cancelled)

23. (Currently Amended) The computer-usable medium of Claim 19 wherein a period of time said first policy decision is valid is also received from said remote source and stored locally.

24. (Previously Presented) The computer-usable medium of Claim 19 wherein a condition associated with said policy definition is also received from said remote source and stored locally, wherein said condition is enforced locally.

25-32. (Cancelled)